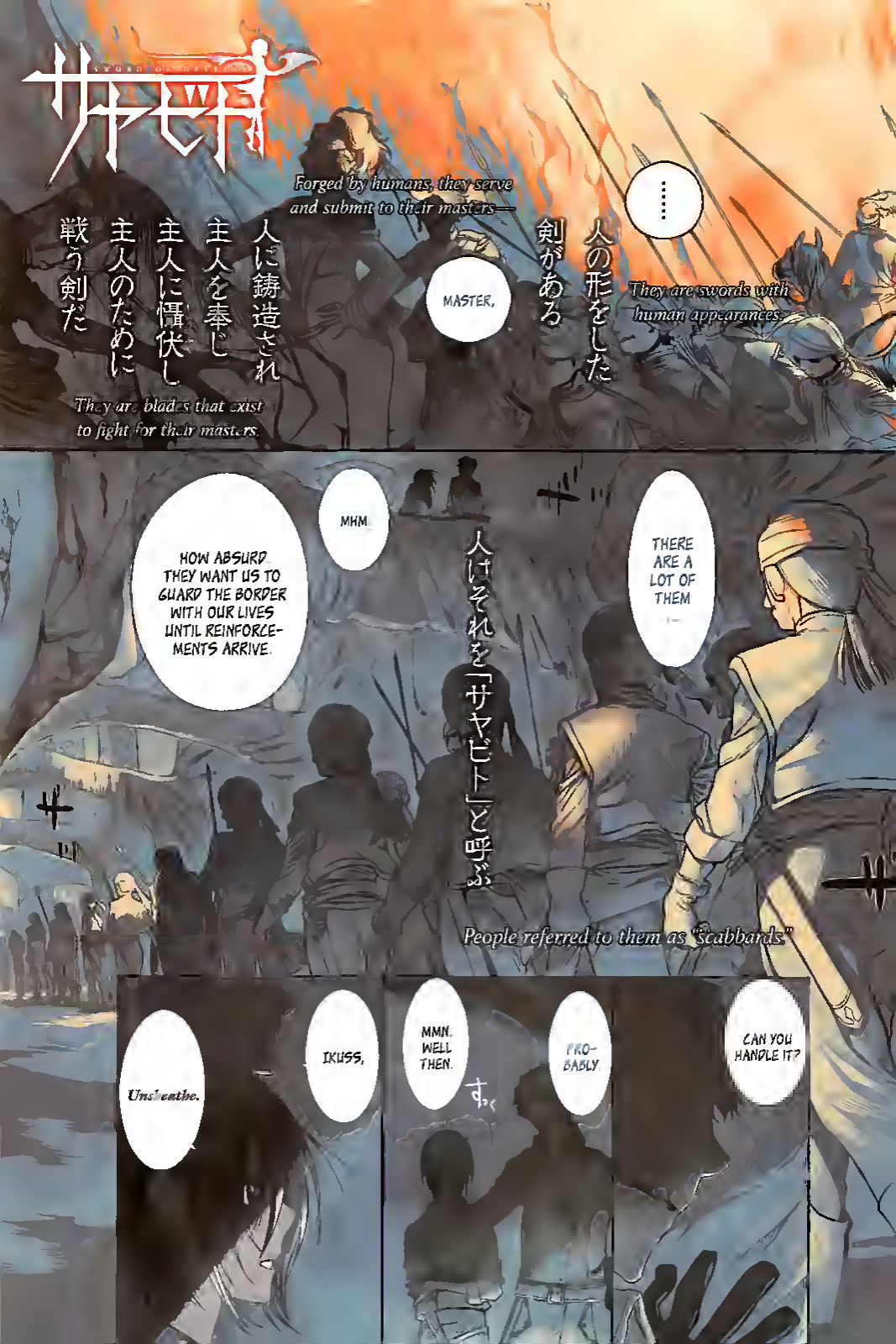

サヤビト
SWORD OF DUSK
人の形をした
剣がある
They are swords with human appearances.
……
Forged by humans, they serve and submit to their masters—
MASTER,
人に鋳造され
主人を奉じ
主人に慴伏し
主人のために
戦う剣だ
They are blades that exist to fight for their masters.
THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM
MHM.
HOW ABSURD. THEY WANT US TO GUARD THE BORDER WITH OUR LIVES UNTIL REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.
人はそれを「サヤビト」と呼ぶ
People referred to them as "scabbards."
CAN YOU HANDLE IT?
PROBABLY.
MMM. WELL THEN.
す、
IKUSS,
Unsheathe.

HOLDING UP FINE?
YES.
MM. ALL-RIGHT.
THEN GO FOR IT.
Kill!

-SWORD OF DESTINY
伊咲ウタ
ISAKI UTA
episode 1 : 黒の守護神
GUARDIAN OF DARKNESS

CLIFA
HM?
HAA
HAA
THEY'RE WAITING FOR US TO COLLAPSE

WHAT?
HEH...
IT'S JUST THAT...
EVEN IF WE DIE, THERE'S NOT MUCH MEAT ON OUR BONES TO FEED THEM.
...OH, LIVIA, DON'T SAY SUCH PESSIMISTIC THINGS.
WELLLL, IT HAS BEEN TWO HOURS SINCE YOU MISREAD THAT MAP AND GOT US LOST, SO IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THE SUN BAKES US INTO JERKY
EH HEH HEH HEH HEH
IF WE REALLY DO DIE HERE, I'M GONNA COMPLAIN TO GOD
HE IMPOSED SUCH A SPECIAL MISSION UPON YOU, YET LEFT YOU AS THE DIRECTIONALLY-CHALLENGED DORK THAT YOU ARE

HERE, WATER.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU SO MUCH
YOU'VE DONE US A HUGE FAVOR
OH, DON'T MENTION IT.
MEEH
HM?
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH...
HECK, WE DIDN'T HAVE AN UNDERGROUND CANAL HERE UP UNTIL HALF A YEAR AGO.
THANKS TO A SCABBARD FROM ROVEVILLE WHO DUG IT FOR US.
SCAB-BARD, DID YOU SAY?
MHM. I USED TO SEE THEM AS NOTHING MORE THAN HIGHLY-SPECIALIZED WAR MACHINES
BUT MAN. SHE FINISHED THE WORK IN NO TIME!
THAT'S RIGHT.
FEELING SELF CONSCIOUS
DARK SKIN AND BLACK HAIR... THAT SCABBARD LOOKED A LOT LIKE YOU.

SO WHAT ARE YOU UP TO HERE IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE?
AND BRINGING ALONG A LITTLE GIRL...
UH?
HEY...
MEEH
YUP! REAL SIMILAR
...IS THAT SO?
AH, ABOUT THAT
UHMM
I'M JUST A SERVANT WHO LOOKS AFTER HER
OH REEEALLY NOW!?
...do I still smell of the lamb I had yesterday?
SNIFF SNIFF
Do.
WHERE'S THE LITTLE MISSY FROM? I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF STEALING A PEEK AT HER EARLIER...
THOSE BLUE EYES AND THAT PLATINUM HAIR MAKE ME WONDER, IS SHE ROYALTY? OR NOBILITY?

WH-
UH-UHH N-NO, THAT'S NOT—
げほ
COUGH
COUGH
IT'S NOT EASY BEING HANDSOME, HMM?
OH COME ON, THE REAL REASON YOU'RE OUT HERE IS BECAUSE FICKLE LITTLE PRINCESS THERE WANTED TO TRAVEL BY HERSELF, SO SHE ORDERED YOU TO ESCORT HER, NO?
OH?
BUT, SERIOUSLY NOW, YOU BEST BE CAREFUL
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HISTORICALLY, THIS AREA HAS BEEN POPULATED BY MINORITIES, AND ONLY UNTIL AFTER THE WAR WERE THEY ASSIMILATED INTO ROWEK CULTURE. THEIR SENSE OF NATIONALISM IS FAIRLY WEAK.
BRINGING SUCH A CONSPICUOUS GIRL INTO THE VILLAGE WILL ATTRACT LOTS OF ATTENTION. AND NOT ALL OF IT GOOD.
OH...
!!!
Cuifa...

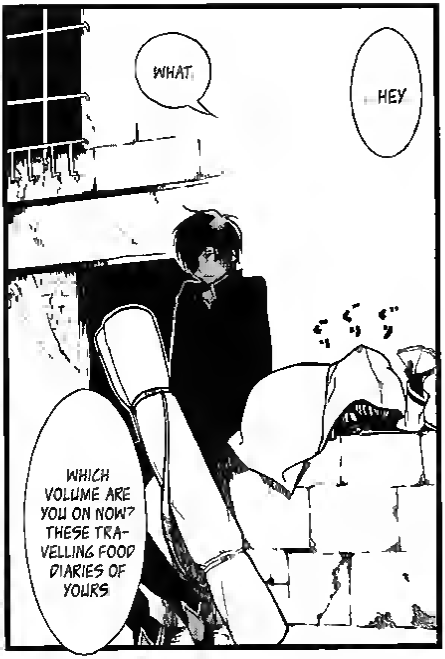
RIGHT! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER—!!
NOT THAT WAY!
YOU GOT THE DIRECTIONS YOU ASKED FOR. SO WE SHOULD BE ON OUR WAY ALREADY
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO CHATTER AWAY...?
SAY, LITTLE PRINCESS,
HM?
WHERE EXACTLY ARE YOU FROM?
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
KNOWING MORE ABOUT MY LINEAGE WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO SETTLE HERE. THAT'S ALL.
THE EXTENT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IS MASTER AND SCABBARD. WE BELONG TO PRETITORE, GUARDIAN OF DARKNESS.

GOOD-BYE
S-S-S-SCABBARD!?
S..
HUH?
.....
DAPA!
NO WAY.
HEY! PAPA~! GET BACK TO WORK ALREADY!
TO SEE TWO OF THESE RARE SCABBARDS IN ONE YEAR...
IF WE DON'T MAKE IT TO THAT VILLAGE BY SUNDOWN, I'M GONNA MAKE YOU CARRY ME THE WHOLE WAY BACK!
AND SHOULDN'T YOU BE A BIT MORE ALERT?
ON ON ON
SPANG
AH
GOSH,
HOW ARE YOU ALWAYS ABLE TO STRIKE UP CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE THAT GO ON AND ON AND ON?

I THINK WE'RE HERE.
THIS IS ROVEVILLE.
ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THERE'S AN UNREGISTERED SCABBARD IN THIS VILLAGE BY THE NAME OF IKUSS, WHO LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN IN HER TWENTIES.
BLACK HAIR, DARK SKIN, AND A LONG-SWORD TYPE.
KIND OF LIKE YOU, CUIFA.
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS AN ANONYMOUS TIP TO THE AGENCY.
IN ANY CASE, LET'S POKE AROUND A BIT FIRST.
MMM.
NONNA! I WANT A CALZONE!

...HOW IS IT?
SCHOMP
HALLO?
STUG TUGG
MMM...
THE MEAT IS TOUGH
MOZARELLA, ASPARAGUS, AND BACON
A BIT ON THE SWEET SIDE
REMIND'S ME OF THE ONES MIRANONNA MAKES AT THE CAPITAL
Not only was the lamb too tough, it was sort of burnt
The sauce inside was a bit on the sweet side, yet kind of spicy as well
ONE AND A HALF STARS!
FINAL VERDICT?
HM, IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE
HOW TERRIBLE

MM THE ELEVENTH, I THINK
DONE~
THE DIRECTOR SAID HE WANTS ME TO PUBLISH THEM EVENTUALLY
Who the heck would buy something drawn like that?
LIVIA'S GUIDE!


HEY
WHAT
WHICH VOLUME ARE YOU ON NOW? THESE TRAVELLING FOOD DIARIES OF YOURS

CAN I TRY A BITE?
OH YEAH
SURE, BUT DON'T YOU DISLIKE SPICY FOOD?
WE'VE COME ALL THIS WAY, SO I MIGHT AS WELL AS TRY SOME LOCAL CUISINE
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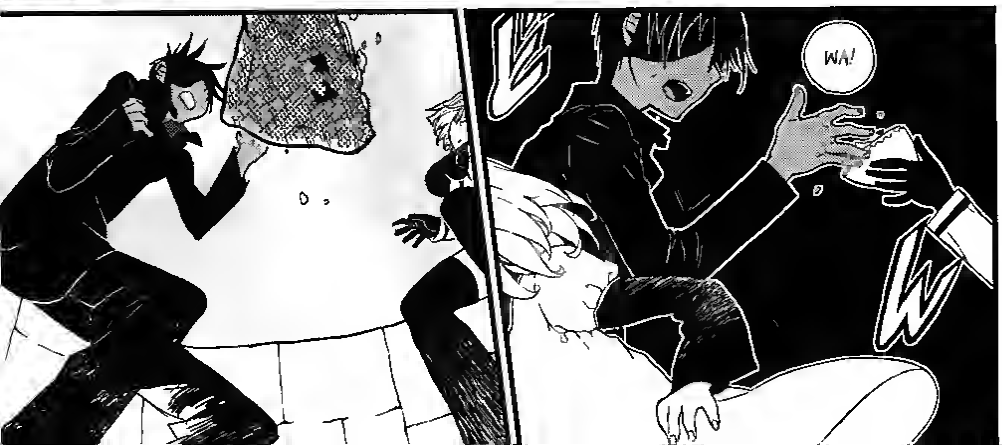

WA!

DAMMIT!
GUH
しゃ
わあ
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE MY WHITE PAIR
NONONO! LIVIA! YOUR PANTIES! YOUR PANTIES ARE SHOWING!
AHH~ YOU SHOULDN'T CLEAN YOUR BOOTS LIKE THAT!
OH HI THERE
I'M A SHOE-SHINER
I CAN GIVE YOU A DIS-COUNTED RATE

LET ME TAKE OFF MY CLOAK
GIVE ME A SEC,
PLEASE PUT YOUR FOOT HERE.
LET'S SEE, I'LL USE THESE TOOLS HERE OVER HERE...
UNLIKELY
WILL HE GIVE US A RECEIPT?
HEY...
AH, OKAY
CUIFA, HOLD IT FOR ME.
THERE WE GO

THAT UNIFORM OF YOURS
ARE YOU FROM THE GOVERNMENT?
...YES. WHY?
WE'VE HEARD THAT THERE'S AN UNREGISTERED SCABBARD IN THIS VILLAGE, SO WE'RE HERE TO LOOK INTO THAT
すとん

UNREGISTERED?
IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND MANAGE THE DECLINING POST-WAR SCABBARD POPULATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT A PRIORITY TO REGISTER ALL SCABBARDS IN A NATIONAL DATABASE.
?
STRANGE POSTURE
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU TWO ARE...
FROM THE PRETTYORE, ARE YOU?

MM... SO PEOPLE AROUND HERE HAVE HEARD OF THAT NAME TOO, HUH?
GUESS ONE CAN'T UNDERESTIMATE THE REACH OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
-TWITCH-
-TWITCH-
I'VE HEARD THAT PRETITORE AGENTS WORK IN MASTER/SCABBARD DUOS...
CORRECT
THIS IS SO THAT WE CAN SEE THINGS FROM THE SAME PERSPECTIVE
SO, ABOUT YOUR WORK
HEY
I MEAN, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DO?
CUIFA
RIGHT!
DOES HE WANT TO GO TO THE BATHROOM?
FOR THE MOST PART, OUR WORK CONSISTS OF ENFORCING REGISTRATION, BUT IT ALSO INCLUDES THINGS LIKE JUDGING COMPLIANCE!
OH
FIRST, WE CHECK WHETHER THE MASTER IS FIT TO CONTROL A SCABBARD

HEY!
ALSO
WHAT?
HEY
OTHER INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT INCLUDES TORTURE, ABUSE, OR OTHER SELFISH PURPOSES THAT DO NOT BENEFIT THE GREATER GOOD. IN THESE CASES, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONFISCATE THE SCABBARD.
FOR EXAMPLE, SOME PEOPLE FORCE THEIR SCABBARDS TO PERFORM TASKS THAT THEY'RE NOT DESIGNED FOR, WHILE OTHERS FAIL TO USE THEM TO THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL.
HEYA, LITTLE MISSY
!
OWW!
FLICK
WASN'T TALKING TO YOU, FOOL
NOT WORRIED ABOUT BEING MUGGED?
WHAT'S A NOBLE'S DAUGHTER DOING IN OUR VILLAGE?
LOOK AT THAT SILVER HAIR AND BLUE EYES!
WOW!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THAT IS NONE OF YOUR CONERN
I HAVE CUIFA AT MY SIDE
THIS KIDDO HERE?
GUYS, GUYS! DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
THEY'RE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, A MASTER/ SCABBARD DUO.
CAN YOU
I'M ASKING NICELY
PLEASE LET GO OF MY HAND?
SCAB-BARD?
THAT'S RIGHT,
THEY'RE HERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS FROM THE CAPITAL
BULL-SHIT
HOW CAN A LITTLE GIRL LIKE HER POS-SIBLY BE A SCABBARD'S MASTER?
-TWITCH-
-TWITCH-

!!!
さわ
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
SHE'S JUST A KID, BUT SINCE NOBLE BLOOD IS SOOO PRECIOUS, SHE USED DADDY'S MONEY TO BUY HERSELF A SCABBARD TO WALK HER AROUND!
OH WAIT, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HER NOBILITY?

NOPE! THAT'S NOT AN ISSUE FOR ME! NOT- AT~ ALL~ !!
WHAT THE HELL, GUIFA! NOW WE LOOK LIKE A PAIR OF MORONS! DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU AT ALL!!?
LIAR!
スッ
ロカ
ガン
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, IF YOU DON'T WATCH YOUR MOUTH, I'M GONNA—
SORRY! SORRY!
WE HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF, BUT AFTER THAT WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY!
ゆうあ

IKUSS...
HE'S NOTHING LIKE IKUSS.
THE HELL'S UP WITH THIS SCABBARD?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
CROWD GATHERS
TCH,
HEY, EYEPATCH! YOU'RE THAT GIRL'S SCABBARD, RIGHT?
HUH? ERM
YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO TALK BACK TO YOUR MASTER? YOU'RE JUST A PUPPET THAT FOLLOWS ORDERS!
WAH!
AH ERR-
YOU KNOW, I THINK CALLING SOMEONE A "PUPPET" IS A BIT DEMEANING

OH MAN, WHAT A PUSH-OVER!
LITTLE MISS, I THINK SOMEONE RIPPED YOU OFF WITH THIS DEFECTIVE PIECE OF JUNK!
OVER, I'M HERE!
I'M OPEN!
YOU GUYS ...
WAAA!
THAT'S AN INSULT TO ME TOO!
STOP TREATING HIM LIKE THAT!
NOW NOW,
YOU'RE HIS MASTER, RIGHT?
SO WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM TO GO IN COMBAT STANCE OR "KILL" ALREADY?
.....
.....

...VIA.
SPITS
HEY, STAND UP!
...HM!'H.
SO,
IT'S DOESN'T MATTER HOW THIS TURNS OUT, RIGHT?
EUGH
STOP SCREWING AROUND, CUIFA!

If you die because you took too long I'll curse you forever.
...Make up your mind already, slowpoke.
HUH?
.....
.....
WHY AM I GETTING CHILLS
HEH
HEH
So, pretty please~
You didn't forget about it, did you? I'll keep my promise.
CUIFA.
WHAT THE HECK IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?

.....
LIVIA,
Combat stance.

WHAT
DID HE JUST SAY...
HM?
HUH?
WHA?

Unsheathe.
YOU GUYS HAD YOUR WARNING.

I ALREADY ASKED YOU... HOWEVER THIS TURNS OUT IS FINE WITH YOU, RIGHT?
...YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
WH-

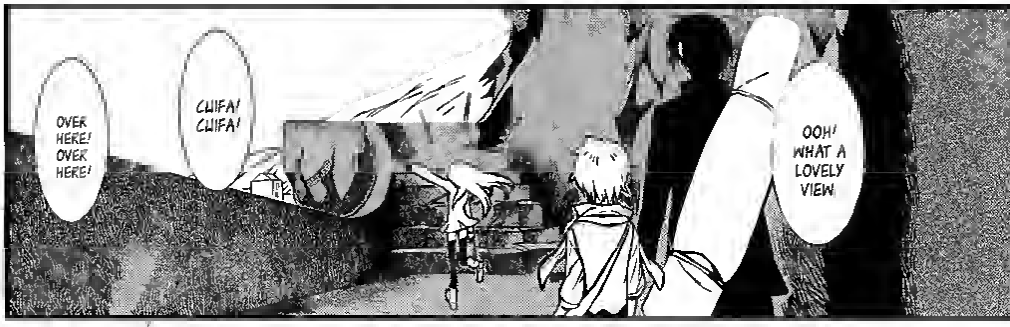
SO EVEN IF I BREAK A COUPLE OF YOUR BONES,
YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN, HMM?

AIEE!!
FFFT!
AHHH!
SHE'S NOT EVEN USING HER SWORD!

HEY
N-N-NO, WAIT,
LET'S TALK THIS OVER!
ERM...
WELL...
WHAT !!?
PLEASE BRACE YOURSELF FOR IMPACT
ALSO, PLEASE BITE DOWN YOUR TEETH SO THAT YOU WON'T BITE YOUR TONGUE.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL—

TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE HIT
SO YOU WON'T—
MEOW!
CUIFA,
YOU

YOU LOOK UTTERLY PATHETIC, GETTING PUSHED AROUND BY THESE SMALL FRY...
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY MASTER, SO CAN'T YOU JUST ACT LIKE IT FOR ONCE?
SEEMS LIKE I DIRTIED MY BOOTS AGAIN.
ALSO, I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU ABOUT THIS VILLAGE ♡
TIME TO GO!
HEY KID,
Y-YES?


OVER HERE! OVER HERE!
CHIFA! CHIFA!
OOH! WHAT A LOVELY VIEW

DON'T TELL ME YOU TOLD HER TO DO AS SHE PLEASES! YOU'RE GONNA SPOIL HER!
...IT'S ALL BECAUSE I'M TOO FLAKY...
SIGH...
WHAAAT!?
YOU IDIOT!!

C'MON!
HURRY UP ALREADY!
...HEY,
...HM?

IS THAT OKAY?
DON'T YOU THINK YOUR SCABBARD IS A BIT ODD?

MM
WELL, NO
OUR SITUATION IS A BIT
NO ACTUALLY, IT'S VERY COMPLI-CATED
DINNER!
MM
IKUSS IS THE VILLAGE'S
.....
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REALLY GET IT
I FOUND HER IN THE FOREST
IKUSS
I CAN TELL, THE TWO OF YOU AND IKUSS
ARE COM-PLETELY DIFFER-ENT

I WAS THE ONE WHO TIPPED OFF YOU GUYS ABOUT IKUSS.
HUH?
SORRY PRETEND I NEVER ASKED
AH?
CARE TO SHARE THE STORY?
ERR...
I KEPT TRYING TO MOTION TO YOU TO STOP TALKING...
AH!
SORRY IT'S MY FAULT THAT I DIDN'T EXPLAIN CLEAR ENOUGH
ERM...
HECK, YOU'RE ALREADY MUCH BETTER THAN IDIOTS WHO RUSH IN WITHOUT A PLAN.
NO USE BLAMING GENES EITHER.
COWARDICE IS A HUMAN SPECIALTY.
.....
I WANTED TO AVOID ATTRACTING THE ATTENTION OF THOSE GUYS
OF COURSE
AHAHA, HARSH
BUT THANKS

DID YOU KNOW? THREE YEARS AGO WE WENT TO WAR WITH A NEIGHBORING NATION OVER SOME MINOR DISPUTES.
...MM.
NOW THAT YOU'VE MENTIONED IT, YEAH, I KIND OF REMEMBER.
I'VE HEARD THAT IKUSS WAS INVOLVED IN THAT WAR.
AND IT WAS THERE THAT SHE LOST HER MASTER—
Who's there?
I see blood.
If you're injured, I can help dress your wounds.
Who are you?
My name is Tollir. I'm from a village nearby.
And you?
.....

...Master?
Are you... a scabb..rd?
But I can't tell you my master's name.
I'm Ikuss.
No.
Are you going to kill me if I go near you right now?
Scabbards cannot engage in combat without their master's command.
And currently, I have not received any commands
Are you interested only because exotic scabbards like me can fetch a huge sum on the market?
You claim to want to help us, but you have yet to relax your grip on your short sword
If you're afraid, then leave now
You're not lying to me, are you?
I'm going over! Okay?
What's with you?

My master and I have no intentions of seeking help from others.
Just go away.
How irritating.
Who…
Who are you kidding? Why would I…
Why the heck would I be afraid of you? You're just an artificial human!

……
ブルブル

Hey
Hey—!
No, stay away
……

Is he dead ...?
Is he ...
Hey!
Are you okay?
Where's your wound?
You must be hurt somewhere too!
Twenty years ...
In these twenty years,
We've always been together

Supposedly, once a scabbard loses its master, it will begin to collapse…
I've been at my master's side ever since my creation, so I've never understood what that meant.
So I guess this is what they call despair…
Kill me, boy…
I want to die.
There's nothing but darkness before me.
Hey!
I feel my mind decaying, withering away…
My body is growing cold…

I beg of you …
Please kill me …
!
Nobody can think clearly given those circumstances, scabbard or not! So stop beating yourself up over it.
You're severely wounded, and you just lost someone dear to you! On top of that, you must be hungry!
Let's go back to the village!
Stop that nonsense!
I'll crumble away with my spirits in the end anyway.
Let go …

THOUGH THE FOOD KIND OF SUCKS, AND IT'S A BORING BACKWOODS PLACE,
BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU, THE VILLAGERS ARE GOOD PEOPLE!
I know it won't fix everything, but I can help you look for a new master!
You should attend to your injury first, then eat a proper meal!
But regardless,
Please hang in there!!
Gosh, I don't even know what I'm saying anymore!
MAYBE WE CAN LEAVE A MEMORIAL OR SOMETHING...
WE CAN DO THAT LATER!
I'll come back to bury him
I can't carry two adults at once!
Are we leaving without him...?
SUCH LONG LEGS!!!
Here, grab my shoulder!
I'm out of energy...
Can you not walk anymore?

AND THAT'S HOW I BROUGHT IKUSS BACK TO THE VILLAGE
MEH..
WE CAN TALK AS WE GO
I'M PRETTY SURE EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE HAS HEARD ABOUT THE RUCKUS FROM EARLIER BY NOW, SO I DOUBT ANY-ONE ELSE WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE YOU IN
WE WOULDN'T WANT TO IMPOSE...
AH?
YOU CAN STAY AT MY PLACE.
...IT'S GETTING DARK
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT!?
SHOCK!
AH, MISS SCABBARD, PLEASE KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
PARDON US, WE'M SORRY, WE MEAN NO HARM
-BOWS-
-BOWS-
UNFORTU-NATELY SO. THE VILLAGE WAS BUILT ON TOP OF A SLOPEY AREA
THE ROADS ARE PRETTY TRICKY HERE.

SO IS IKUSS AT YOUR HOUSE RIGHT NOW?
NOT ANY-MORE.
THOUGH THINGS DID IMPROVE AFTER IKUSS HELPED OUT WITH RENO-VATIONS
THE GUSTS AROUND HERE ARE TERRIBLY STRONG, AND SO THE BUILD-INGS ERODE QUICKLY WE GET DUST STORMS TOO
SHE KEPT TALKING IN HER SLEEP ABOUT HER LATE MASTER, SO I CONVINCED SOME VILLAGERS TO HELP ME BURY HIM IN THE FOREST.
IKUSS WAS TAKEN AWAY
WHEN I RETURNED, THERE WAS NO ONE AT HOME.
THREE DAYS AFTER I BROUGHT HER HOME
WHAT HAP-PENED?

V-VILLAGE CHIEF...?
CORRECT. AND WHAT'S WORSE, HE BECAME IKUSS'S MASTER.
CHASE HE'S THE VILLAGE CHIEF
WHO DID IT?
JUST LET IT GO. FORGET ABOUT HIM!
THAT BLOODY MORON!
!!
SHH!
DID YOU NOT COMPLAIN TO HIM!?
BUT HOW
THOSE GUYS ARE THE CHIEF'S MERCENARIES
THEY'RE WORSE THAN THE HOODLUMS FROM EARLIER
WAHAHA
LISTEN TO ME
W-WHAT?

HE HAS A SCABBARD, AND YET HE HIRES MERCENARIES?
IT'S BECAUSE THAT JERK WANTS IKUSS ALL FOR HIMSELF.
WHEN HE FIRST BECAME HER MASTER, THOUGH, HE HAD HER HELP WITH VILLAGE WORK.
LIKE MOVING BOULDERS OR DIGGING WELLS, THAT SORT OF THING.
MEEH
MEEH
SO I COULDN'T EXACTLY PROTEST TO THAT.
AND AFTER ALL, THEORETICALLY, IF HER MASTER IS THE VILLAGE CHIEF, THINGS SHOULD GO PRETTY WELL. PLUS, GIVEN HOW FRAGILE SHE WAS, IT WAS CRUCIAL TO HELP HER FIND A NEW MASTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BUT,
HE'S CHANGED IN THE PAST HALF YEAR.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE VILLAGERS PLEAD, HE WOULD NOT LET IKUSS TAKE A SINGLE STEP OUTSIDE HIS COMPLEX.
THIS INFURIATED THE VILLAGERS GREATLY SO AS A RESULT, THE CHIEF HAS HIRED MERCENARIES FOR HIS OWN PROTECTION.

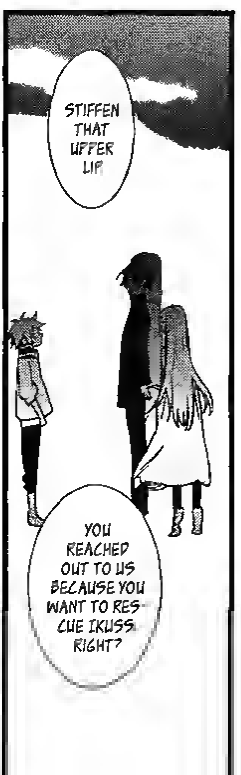
AS SUCH, HIS CHARACTER IS HIGH AND MIGHTY ...OR SHOULD I SAY, HE ACTS HIGH AND MIGHTY.
YOU SEE, CHASE WAS SENT HERE BY THE CAPITOL, AND HE'S THE DESCENDANT OF SOME NOBLE FAMILY.
PSIGHC
...IN OTHER WORDS, THEY THOUGHT WE'RE LIKE THAT TOO.
FFFT
AND THE IDIOTS WHO TRIED PICKING ON US? WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
THIS NEGATIVE CYCLE WILL ONLY DEEPEN THE GEN-ERATION GAP
REGISTER IKUSS'S INFORMATION, OF COURSE.
...AND THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WE'LL PAY THE CHIEF A VISIT TOMOR-ROW
I GET IT NOW
CONFIRM WHETHER THE CHIEF IS FIT TO BE HER MASTER
ALSO,

AT LEAST, THE WAY I SEE IT,
YOUR BODY LANGUAGE HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY SCREAMING, "I'M WAY MORE QUALIFIED TO BE IKUSS'S MASTER THAN THAT JERK" THIS WHOLE TIME
.....!

There's an age requirement too
HAHA
AND YOU ARE CAPABLE OF SUCH, BECAUSE AFTER ALL, WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO PREVENTED THAT SCABBARD FROM KILLING HERSELF AFTER HER MASTER PASSED AWAY?
*MUST BE 15+ AND HEALTHY

OF COURSE I WOULD!
WOULD YOU LIKE A BATH?
はぁ!?
HERE'S THE TOWEL

COME ON IN
I LIVE BY MYSELF NOW, SO YOU CAN TAKE IT EASY


STIFFEN THAT UFFER LIP
YOU REACHED OUT TO US BECAUSE YOU WANT TO RESCUE IKUSS, RIGHT?

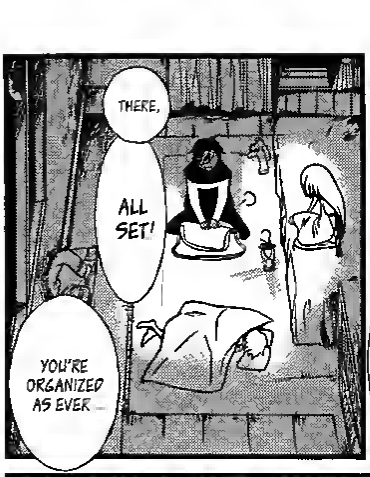
Lrvia, there are other people around right now.
...LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A PRETTY NICE LIFE THERE...
ABLE TO SEE THAT EVEN NOW...
IT FEELS SO GROSS
WAA, BUT IT REEKS OF SWEAT! I WANNA TAKE IT OFF!!
THEN I'LL GO PREPARE THE HOT WA—
WAAAAAAAA!!
.....
...in other words, he used to live with his family?
"I live by myself now," he said ...
I I SEE... I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID...
WELL... I CLOSE MY EYES AND BEAR WITH IT...
WHOA!
SURE IS A NICE BATHROOM FOR SOMEONE WHO LIVES ALONE!

I WONDER IF THAT'S WHERE THE VILLAGE HEAD IS.
THE NATIONAL FLAG...

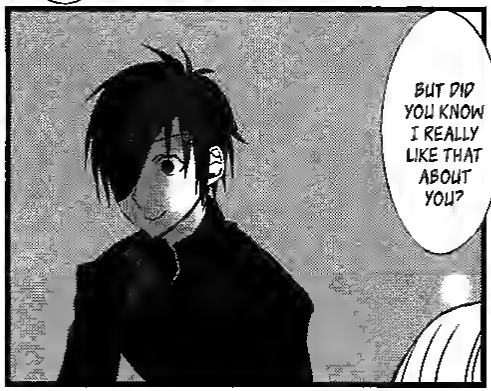
.....

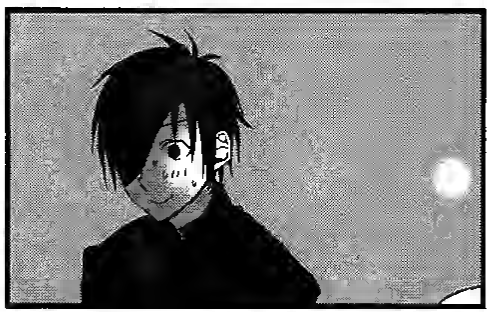
About that...
Think it over yourself.
.....
CROSS AND DAGGER!

BIG BRO,
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS
I'VE STUDIED A FEW TECHNIQUES
AND MY CRAFTMASTER PASSED HIS TIME-TESTED TEACHINGS DOWN TO ME
.....
...I GIVE UP.
HEH.
BUT IT WAS A GOOD THING I DIDN'T WAGER ANYTHING
I'M WAY TOO CARELESS...
I'M DONE BATHING!
WHERE SHOULD I HANG MY UNDERWEAR?
OVER BY THE WINDOW!
THE WINDOW!
NONONO! GO OVER THERE!
AIEEE!!
>DANGLE<
.....


THERE,
ALL SET!
YOU'RE ORGANIZED AS EVER...

PEN, INK PAD,
GOVERN-MENT PAMPH-LET,
SPARE EYE-PATCH...

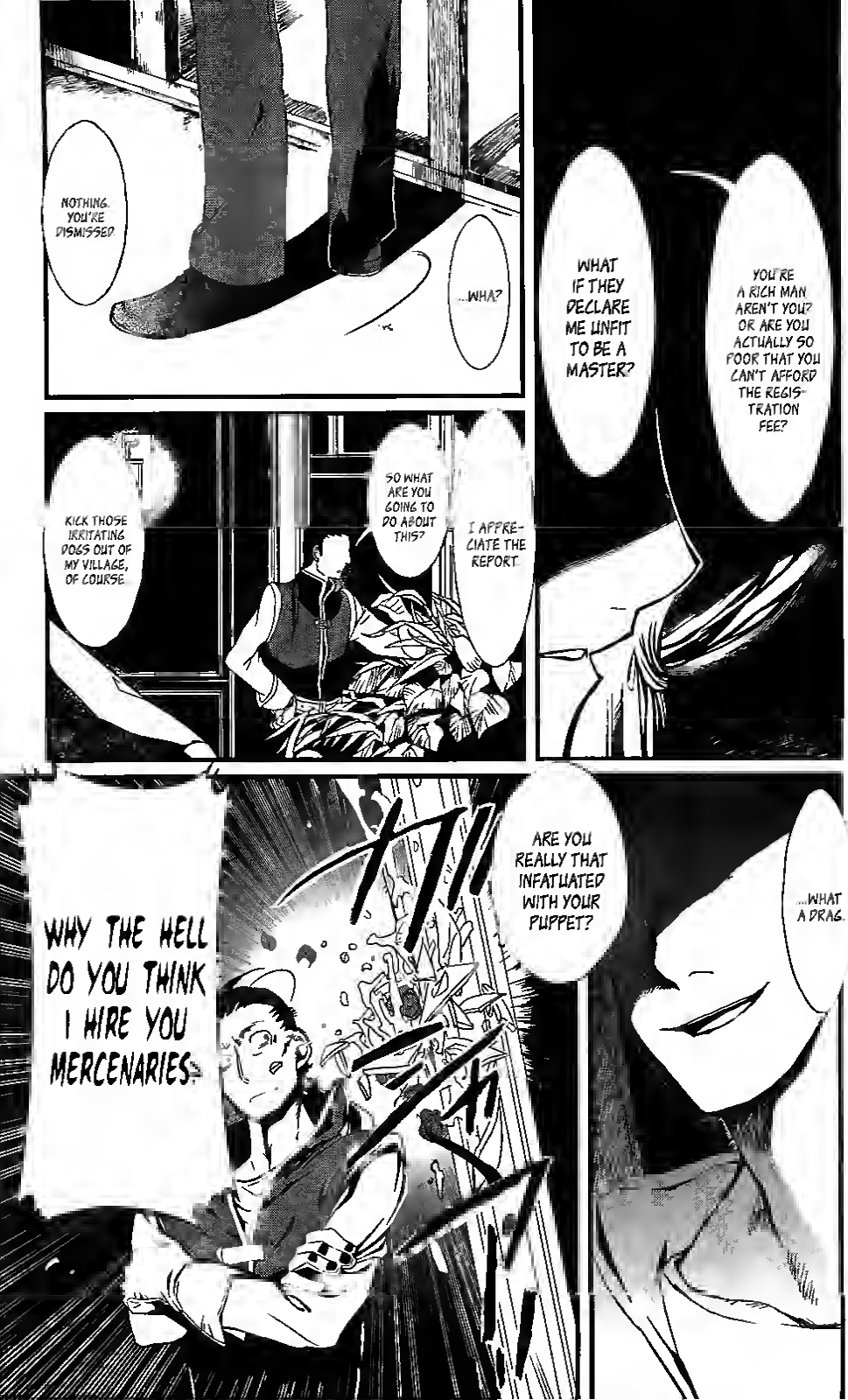

BUT DID YOU KNOW I REALLY LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU?



YOU'D MAKE A GREAT WIFE SOMEDAY

NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT...
I'M JUST LIKE THAT
I GUESS SO

CHIEF,
...IS THAT SO?
YEAH. I HEARD THEY GOT INTO A SCUFFLE WITH SOME VILLAGERS AS WELL
WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT THE CAPITOL HAS DISPATCHED AGENTS TO DEAL WITH THAT BELOVED SWORD OF YOURS


NOTHING. YOU'RE DISMISSED.
...WHA?
YOU'RE A RICH MAN AREN'T YOU? OR ARE YOU ACTUALLY SO POOR THAT YOU CAN'T AFFORD THE REGISTRATION FEE?
WHAT IF THEY DECLARE ME UNFIT TO BE A MASTER?
I APPRECIATE THE REPORT.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?
KICK THOSE IRRITATING DOGS OUT OF MY VILLAGE, OF COURSE.
...WHAT A DRAG.
ARE YOU REALLY THAT INFATUATED WITH YOUR PUPPET?
WHY THE HELL DO YOU THINK I HIRE YOU MERCENARIES?

NOW GO AND SHARPEN THE WEAPONS YOU'RE OH-SO-PROUD OF AND WAIT FOR MY ORDERS!
YOU ARE TO DO AS I SAY!
HEY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
MR BOSS MAN
WE'LL DO EXACTLY AS YOU SAY,
YES, YES.
Touched a nerve there
.....
...YOU HEARD US? WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHAT YOU WERE SAYING JUST NOW...
MASTER,
.....

I'LL DEFINITELY PROTECT YOU.
IKUSS.

HM? BAD DREAM?
CUIFA.
.....
CAN'T SLEEP?
.....
NO, NOT THAT.
CUIFA. UM...
YES?
I REALLY HOPE THAT IKUSS'S MASTER IS NOT A BAD PERSON.
'CAUSE IF NOT,
I MIGHT END UP BREAKING OUR PROMISE.

I...
AND IF I BREAK THE PROMISE,
WOULD CAUSE THE CONTRACT TO BE ANNULLED
..DON'T WORRY,
WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO BREAK YOUR PROMISE,
I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY MIGHT TO STOP YOU
I'LL STOP YOU EVEN IF IT KILLS ME
NO!
CUIFA, YOU'RE MY MASTER! IF YOU DIE, THAT WOULD BE HUMILIATING FOR ME!
WELL THEN, JUST KEEP YOUR PROMISE AND EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE
はぁ
……
OKAY I'LL DO THAT
GOOD-NIGHT.
GOOD-NIGHT~
episode 1 END

SAYABITO
サヤビト

伊咲ウタ

VOLUME ONE * EPISODE ONE

Some remarks:

(1) Sayabito literally means "scabbard person." It sort of reminds me of *Hitogatana*, y'know?

(2) These bubbles are ridiculously annoying to letter in. Curse you too, Roman Alphabet.

(3) No honorifics because we're not in ~~Kansas~~ Japan anymore.

(4) I fondled the spellings so they would look less Japanese
クイファ = Cuifa　リヴィア = Livia　イクス = Ikuss

(5) I have never hated furigana so much. No, seriously, what the hell?
I turned プレティトーレ into Pretitore, but fuck the rest.

(6) I have more things to say, but fuck it, I want to get this uploaded.

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